

# **PRESS NOTICE**

**BILL NETTLES  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
1441 Main Street, Suite 500 \* Columbia, SC 29201 \* (803) 929-3000**

---

**October 17, 2011**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**PRESS CONTACT: STACEY D. HAYNES  
803-929-3000**

## **OVER 68,700 STUDENTS TO PLEDGE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE**

COLUMBIA, SC — United States Attorney BILL NETTLES announced that on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, members of the U. S. Attorney's Office and their law enforcement partners will meet with students across South Carolina as part of as part of South Carolina's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. Middle and high school students will sign a voluntary pledge promising that they will never take a gun to school, will never resolve a dispute with a gun, and will use their influence to prevent friends from using guns to resolve disputes. Elementary school children will make a simpler commitment, pledging that if they see a gun they will not touch it, they will assume that any gun they see might be loaded, and they will tell a teacher or a trusted adult.

The effort is part of South Carolina's Project CeaseFire, which is South Carolina's implementation of the Department of Justice's Project Safe

Neighborhoods program, which is aimed at reducing gun violence. The Student Pledge Against Gun Violence is a national program that recognizes the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing gun violence. This campaign against youth gun violence culminates each October in a Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence. The program provides a means for beginning the conversation with young people about gun violence. Students from around the country will join together in pledging to do their part to end gun violence. Over the years, millions students nationwide have signed the pledge.

Mr. Nettles said that the response to the pledge campaign has been outstanding, with approximately 68,761 students from 119 schools across the state agreeing to take part. "Our office is pleased to once again take this opportunity to reach out to South Carolina students and engage in a dialogue with students about gun violence and the importance of making right choices," stated Mr. Nettles.

The U.S. Attorney's Office worked with schools and law enforcement agencies throughout the state to make the pledges available. In addition to providing the pledges, the U.S. Attorney's Office coordinated with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to provide speakers to go out to schools across South Carolina and talk to students about what they can do to

reduce gun violence.

The following South Carolina schools and law enforcement agencies are participating in this year's pledge on October 19<sup>th</sup>. For information on events scheduled for a particular school, please contact that school or law enforcement agency. For additional information concerning the pledge, visit the national Student Pledge web site at [www.pledge.org](http://www.pledge.org)

#### Participating Law Enforcement Agencies

Aiken County Sheriff's Department  
Bamberg Police Department  
Barnwell County Sheriff's Office  
Beaufort Police Department  
Beaufort County Sheriff's Department  
Bennettsville Police Department  
Berkeley County Sheriff's Office  
Blacksburg Police Department  
Cayce Department of Public Safety  
Charleston County Sheriff's Office  
Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office  
Clinton Public Safety  
Colleton County Sheriff's Department  
Columbia Police Department  
Conway Police Department  
Coward Police Department  
Darlington Police Department  
Dillon Police Department  
Dorchester County Sheriff's Department  
Florence County Sheriff's Department  
Florence Police Department  
Goose Creek Police Department  
Greenwood County Sheriff's Office  
Greer Police Department  
Horry County Police Department  
Kershaw County Sheriff's Department  
Laurens County Sheriff's Department  
Laurens Police Department  
Lexington County Sheriff's Department

Liberty Police Department  
Mullins Police Department  
Myrtle Beach Police Department  
Newberry County Sheriff's Department  
Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department  
Pickens Police Department  
Richland County Sheriff's Department  
SC Department of Juvenile Justice  
SC State University Police Department  
Seneca Police Department  
St. George Police Department  
Summerville Police Department  
Sumter County Sheriff's Office  
Union Department of Public Safety  
York County Sheriff's Department

### **Participating Schools**

Alston Middle School, Summerville  
Andrews Elementary School, Andrews  
Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School, Bamberg  
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School, Bamberg  
Barnwell Elementary School, Barnwell  
Batesburg-Leesville High School, Batesburg-Leesville  
Bells Elementary School, Ruffin  
Black Water Middle School, Conway  
Blacksburg High School, Blacksburg  
Branchville High School, Branchville  
Brewer Middle School, Greenwood  
Brockington Elementary Magnet School, Darlington  
Brookland-Cayce High School, Cayce  
Camden High School, Camden  
Carolina School of Inquiry, Columbia  
Castle Heights Middle School, Rock Hill  
Cheraw High School, Cheraw  
Cheraw Intermediate School, Cheraw  
Chesterfield Ruby Middle School, Chesterfield  
Clearwater Elementary School, Clearwater  
Clinton High School, Clinton  
Clover High School, Clover  
Clover Middle School, Clover  
Cyril B. Busbee Creative Arts Academy, Cayce  
D.P. Cooper Elementary School, Salters

Darlington High School, Darlington  
Darlington Middle School, Darlington  
Dewey L. Carter Elementary School, Effingham  
East Elementary School, Dillon  
Ebenezer Middle School, Sumter  
Edisto High School, Cordova  
Edith L. Frierson Elementary School, Wadmalaw Island  
Felton Laboratory School, Orangeburg  
Finley Road Elementary School, Rock Hill  
Forest Heights Elementary School, Columbia  
Forestbrook Middle School, Myrtle Beach  
Foster Park Elementary School, Union  
Gilbert High School, Gilbert  
Gloverville Elementary School, Gloverville  
Goose Creek Primary School, Goose Creek  
Goucher Elementary School, Gaffney  
Great Falls Elementary School, Great Falls  
Greer Middle School, Greer  
H.B. Rhame, Jr. Elementary School, Columbia  
Hand Middle School, Columbia  
Harbison West Elementary School, Columbia  
Hardeeville Elementary School, Hardeeville  
Hartsville High School, Hartsville  
Henry Timrod Elementary School, Florence  
High Hills Elementary School, Shaw Air Force Base  
Hollis Academy, Greenville  
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary School, Neeses  
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School, Neeses  
J.C. Lynch Elementary School, Coward  
J.K. Gourdin Elementary School, Pineville  
James H. Hendrix - International Baccalaureate World School, Boiling Springs  
Jefferson Elementary School, Warrentonville  
John De La Howe School, McCormick  
Johnsonville Elementary School, Johnsonville  
Kelly Miller Elementary School, Winnsboro  
Lady's Island Middle School, Beaufort  
Laurens High School, Laurens  
Laurens Middle School, Laurens  
Leavelle McCampbell Middle School, Graniteville  
Liberty Elementary School, Liberty  
Limestone Central Elementary School, Gaffney  
Lincoln Middle-High School, McClellanville  
Logan Elementary School, Columbia

Luther L. Vaughn Elementary School, Gaffney  
Main Street Elementary School, Lake City  
Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary School, North Charleston  
Manchester Elementary School, Pinewood  
Marlboro County High School, Bennettsville  
Mayewood Middle School, Sumter  
McCormick Elementary School, McCormick  
Meadowfield Elementary School, Columbia  
Mellichamp Elementary School, Orangeburg  
Midlands Evaluation Center School, Columbia  
Mill Creek Elementary School, Columbia  
Moore Intermediate School, Florence  
Myrtle Beach High School, Myrtle Beach  
Myrtle Beach Middle School, Myrtle Beach  
New Ellenton Middle School, New Ellenton  
Newberry High School, Newberry  
North Aiken Elementary School, Aiken  
North Springs Elementary School, Columbia  
Northside Elementary School, Walterboro  
Oakland Primary School, Sumter  
Oakridge Middle School, Clover  
Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, Orangeburg  
Pate Elementary School, Darlington  
Petersburg Primary School, Pageland  
Pickens High School, Pickens  
Pine Grove Elementary School, Columbia  
Pine Ridge Middle School, West Columbia  
Pocalla Springs Elementary School, Sumter  
R.E. Davis Elementary School, Sumter  
R.H. Fulmer Middle School, West Columbia  
Robert Smalls Middle School, Burton  
Rock Hill High School, Rock Hill  
Sandel Elementary School, Columbia  
Sanders Middle School, Laurens  
Scranton Elementary School, Scranton  
Sedgefield Middle School, Goose Creek  
Seneca Middle School, Seneca  
Shaw Heights Elementary School, Sumter  
Sneed Middle School, Florence  
South Florence High, Florence  
Southside Middle School, Florence  
St. George Middle School, St. George  
St. Stephen Middle School, St. Stephen

Sumter County Career Center, Sumter  
Union County High School, Union  
W. J. Keenan High School, Columbia  
West Florence High School, Florence  
Whale Branch Middle, Seabrook  
Whittemore Park Middle School, Conway  
Williams Middle School, Florence  
Wilson High School, Florence  
Woodland High School, St. George

#####